



CLERMONT ENVIRONMENTAL QUARTERLY

Board of County Commissioners

Office of Environmental Quality

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Other Upcoming Events

2009 SWCD Annual Plant Sale

For information visit:
<http://www.clermontswcd.org/districtindex.html>

Clermont Clean & Green Events

Clean & Green Spring Litter Pickup-Great American Cleanup

Free t-shirts and refreshments!

Saturday, April 18th 9am-Noon
Amelia, Batavia Twp, Bethel, Goshen, Milford, New Richmond, Owensville, Union Twp, Williamsburg (10am-Noon), and Withamsville

Saturday, April 25th
Felicity 9am-Noon
Point Pleasant 9am-11am

Ohio River Sweep

Free t-shirts and refreshments
Saturday, June 20th 9am-Noon

Compost Bin Sale

Sat., May 2nd, 9.a.m.-3p.m.
Anderson Twp. Farmers Market

Clermont Shred Day:

DJFS-Sat., May 30th

Computer Recycling Events

There will be a number of computer recycling events held in Clermont County this spring.

Felicity/Franklin Twp.

611 Neville St., April 10th, 10a.m.-6p.m.

Miami Twp

5900 McPicken Dr., April 18th, 9a.m.-12p.m.

Stonelick Twp.

Clermont Co. Fairgrounds-Owensville
May 8th, 10a.m.-6p.m.

Goshen Twp

6757 Goshen Rd., May 9th, 9a.m.-5p.m.

Union Twp-TBD

This event will prevent thousands of pounds of electronic waste from going into our local landfills, much of it containing toxins such as lead and mercury." states Becky Ploucha, Director of the Clean and Green Program. The Cincinnati Computer Cooperative not only recycles computers like other for-profit computer recyclers in the Greater Cincinnati area, but they also reuse computers through our refurbishing program. Hundreds of computers are made available to schools, nonprofits, students and families on assistance. Last year 20% of donated equipment was sold to groups, families and individuals for under \$100 a piece.

If you have any questions regarding this recycling event please contact Becky Ploucha at 513-753-9222 or cleanandgreen@clermont2020.org

2009 East Fork River Sweep

This spring the East Fork Watershed Collaborative will work alongside local partners to host the 17th annual East Fork Little Miami River Sweep! Volunteers are needed for this event, so mark your calendar in advance and join us on Saturday, April 25, 2009 (Rain date: Saturday, May 2, 2009).

Many local citizens, businesses and organizations participate and provide support for the River Sweep. It is an excellent opportunity for individuals and groups to serve their community, while enjoying a fun-filled day out on the river. River Sweepers can walk or use a

free canoe to clear the river and it's banks of trash and debris.

Registration will begin in early March. For more information contact Becky McClatchey, East Fork Watershed Coordinator, at (513) 732-7075, or visit www.oeq.net



VOLUNTEERS REMOVE TRASH FROM THE RIVER VIA CANOE

States Join E.P.A. Study of Pathogens in Ohio River

CINCINNATI — Six states bordering the Ohio River are joining the [Environmental Protection Agency](#) in the largest study of its kind to identify and reduce dangerous levels of bacteria that plague the waterway.

Unsafe levels of fecal coliform, or E. coli, have been identified in about 500 miles of the 981-mile river, which stretches from Pittsburgh to the Mississippi River at Cairo, Ill.

The pathogens can sicken swimmers and others who come in close contact with the water. The river also provides about five million people with drinking water, including residents of Cincinnati, Louisville, Ky., and the suburbs of Pittsburgh, though typical bacteria levels do not pose a threat to safely treating the water.

The analysis, which officials plan to finish next year, will identify how much bacteria sewage treatment plants, factories and farms, among others, can discharge into the river without exceeding safety standards.

Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia are participating, as well as the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission, which has collected weekly water samples dur-

ing the recreational season, May through October, since 1992.

“It kind of sets a pollutant diet for the river,” said Dean Maraldo, an E.P.A. official who attended a public hearing about the study last Thursday near Cincinnati. “The study itself doesn’t bring financial resources but highlights problems so that states and stakeholders can target what resources they have.”

According to the E.P.A., carrying out the recommendations of a similar study led to the restoration of healthy oxygen levels in the Middle Cuyahoga River in northeastern Ohio through the removal of one dam and modification of another. After another study, oyster harvesting was revived in Lynnhaven Bay in Virginia after bacteria pollution caused by boaters, sewer systems, farms and pet waste was reduced.

But cleaning up the Ohio poses a much bigger challenge because its watershed spans seven states and covers 204,000 square miles.

In 49 cities and towns, combined sewer and storm water systems release untreated sewage directly into the river during heavy rains. Upgrading those systems will cost billions of dollars, officials said, and federal regulations require sewage treatment plant operators to assemble long-term improvement plans, which will be taken into consideration in the new study.

Runoff of manure used as fertilizer and waste from animal farms, referred to as nonpoint-source pollution, are also major bacteria contributors. The E.P.A. and the states have little authority to force farmers to change their practices, and the study cannot mandate changes to farms. However, with the help of state and federal funding, best management practices can be implemented in these areas to help reduce nonpoint

sources of pollution.

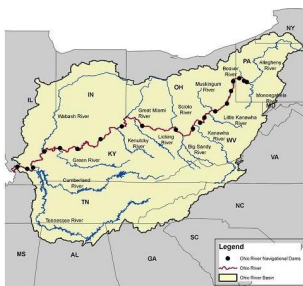
“Everybody recognizes the need to reduce the bacteria levels,” said David Montali, the study’s West Virginia coordinator, adding that he did not know whether the study would “be a driving force to make things happen.”

Kevin Kratt, a project manager with Tetratech, a private firm that was hired as a consultant, said he hoped the study’s wealth of new information on pollution sources would enable the E.P.A. and the states to better focus money on projects that yield the biggest improvements in water quality.

“The publicity generated may drive some nonpoint-source improvements as well,” Mr. Kratt said.

Jennifer Clark, an environmental protection specialist in Illinois, said the study’s intention was “to get people on board and aware that it needs to be dealt with.”

“A lot of people want to choose a smaller watershed because it would be easier,” Ms. Clark said, “but we need to hit this on the head and find out our biggest problems and where we can make a difference.”



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THE OHIO RIVER WATERSHED SPANS SEVEN STATES AND COVERS 204,000 SQUARE MILES